



CHILD NUTRITION: SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM (SMP)

DESCRIPTION:

Provides public or nonprofit schools or child care institutions that do not participate in other federal meal programs with a per-half pint reimbursement for part of the cost of milk served to children/students.

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION & U.S. CODE CITATION:

- Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296)
- Child Nutrition Act, Section 3 (42 U.S.C.1772) / Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

- House Committee on Agriculture
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- House Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

ELIGIBILITY:

Any child at a participating school or half-day pre-kindergarten program can receive milk through the Special Milk Program. Children may either buy milk or receive it free, depending on the school's choice of program options.

KEY COMPONENTS:

- Reimburses schools and child care institutions for the milk they serve.
- Schools in the National School Lunch Programs (NSLP) or the School Breakfast Programs (SBP) may also participate in the SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where children do not have access to the school meal programs.
- The SMP is usually administered by state education agencies, which operate the program through agreements with school food authorities.
- Participants must operate their milk programs on a non-profit basis.
- Participants must offer only pasteurized fluid types of fat free or low-fat (1%) milk that meet all state and local standards.
- All milk should contain vitamin A and D at levels specified by the Food and Drug Administration.

DATA:

In FY2014, approximately 49.8 million half-pints of milk were subsidized through the Special Milk Program.

NCSL STAFF CONTACTS:

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